

REMARKS

Claims 13-29 are all the claims pending in the application; each of the claims has been rejected.

Claims 13, 17, 22 and 25 have been amended to recite an antibody that specifically binds to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18. The amendment to the claims is fully supported by the specification, such as in Example 7 (see paragraph 173 in particular).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy shown during the telephone conference on April 11, 2006. Therein, the Examiner suggested that if the claims were amended in the manner set forth herein, the Amendment would be entered, and the outstanding rejection would be overcome.

No new matter has been added. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

At paragraph 8 of the Office Action, claims 13-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as lacking adequate written description support in the specification as filed.

The Examiner explains that this is a new matter rejection. The Examiner states that the specification does not provide written description support for claim element “an epitope.” The Examiner requires cancellation of the noted subject matter.

Included herewith is an amendment to the claims such that the claim element “an epitope” has been canceled as requested by the Examiner, thus making this rejection moot.

In view of the amendment to the claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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